

Fax Transmittal
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To: Carl Nash

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From: Dennis Nordmoe, Director 

Date: June 18, 1998

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Message: Letter Re Rule 901

All Saints Neighborhood Center

8300 Longworth
Detroit, MI 48208
Phone: (313) 841-4447
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June 18, 1998

Mr. Carl Nash
USEPA
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Nash:

Re: Rule 901, State of Michigan and Wayne County Ordinance Laws

I am writing to urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to maintain the State of Michigan Rule 901 as a part of the State of Michigan Implementation (SIP) language as filed with the USEPA. We urgently need the assistance of federal agencies to challenge State and local authorities to do all that is in their power to reduce pollution in this area.

Frequently, the air in the area of our neighborhood center is quite pungent and heavy with odors from surrounding industrial and municipal sources. The Oakwood Heights neighborhood immediately to our west and the Delray neighborhood to our south, both adjacent to the Rouge River, have an even more significant problem. When I pass through these areas, I am amazed that children are being raised under these conditions.

These air quality problems convert into social problems by the following mechanism: The air quality drives families that are economically successful to move out. We cannot attract educated, successful families to move in and invest in the neighborhood as long as poor air quality continues. This creates a situation in which those who can model the behaviors which lead to success are in short supply. Persons who cannot afford a more desirable environment are the dominant group. This is leading to an over concentration of persons who are substance dependent and have other social problems. This creates a poor social environment which negatively biases the development of our children. Gang culture and a high dropout rate result from this and in turn feed the cycle of adult poverty and crime.

Our community has many fine qualities which make it ideally suited for urban living. Without a significant improvement in the quality of our air, this community's social problems will continue unabated and the potential of our neighborhood will go unfulfilled.

Sincerely,



Dennis Nordmoe, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: Ed McNamara, County Executive; Dennis Archer, Mayor; Kathy Milberg, SDEV